

# addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Sept. 9, 2024

## UTM, Martin celebrate 31st annual Soybean Festival

Captain Skyhawk gets a glad hand from a fan during the Tennessee Soybean Festival Parade held Sept. 3. Begun in 1994, the Tennessee Soybean Festival has been an integral part of the West Tennessee community for the last 31 years and has been a fun, shared experience for the university and the Weakley County community. The festival was held Sept. 3-7 and brought several people from around West Tennessee to Martin. Besides Captain Skyhawk, the university was represented by the Aviators Marching Band, cheerleaders, student organizations and sports teams. More information about the festival can be found at [tnsoybeanfestival.org](http://tnsoybeanfestival.org).



## Tucker named assistant vice chancellor for enrollment

Director of Undergraduate Admissions **Destin Tucker** has been promoted to assistant vice chancellor for enrollment services and will serve as the university's chief enrollment officer.

In her new role, Tucker will oversee admissions, financial aid, records and the Student Success Center. She will begin her new responsibilities immediately.

"Destin has been instrumental in driving significant growth in enrollment, increasing the number of students from 6,705 at the start of her tenure in July 2016 to what this fall will likely be the largest enrollment in more than 10 years," said **Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier**, senior vice chancellor for academic

affairs. "Her leadership has also streamlined university operations by bringing critical services, including admissions name buys, communication flow to prospective students and back-office support in-house.

"This strategic move has resulted in a \$275,000 reduction in expenses previously incurred through third-party contracts."

Since 2022, Tucker has chaired the Strategic Enrollment



Tucker

Management and she has been a key player in crafting the UT System's strategic enrollment plan.

Committee and will lead the development of the next strategic enrollment plan in the coming months.

She is leading the work of increasing international student enrollment to 5% of the total student body by 2030.

Tucker's contributions extend beyond our campus, as she actively participates in the UT System Enrollment Council,

# YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



Delmond



Busch



Weber

Dr. Anthony Delmond, associate professor of agricultural economics; Heidi Busch, assistant professor of library sciences; and former UTM faculty librarian Erin Weber (currently at Salisbury University in Maryland) wrote a co-authored article published Sept. 4 in the Journal of Academic Librarianship.

The article can be seen [here](#). This paper was the culmination of a project that

began with the Faculty Learning Community in spring 2020. It was a cross-disciplinary study looking at the impacts of generalized information literacy instruction.

The authors had feedback from several instructors as they developed the survey tools, and a handful of UTM faculty members allowed the authors to use their classes for the project.

The goal was to see whether generalized information literacy

instruction resulted in general improvements or if existing disparities were broadened.

It was found that a rising tide raised all ships, but that extant disparities were exacerbated through the training. The results indicated that discipline-specific information literacy instruction might provide an important next step in improving students' knowledge and use of information in academics.

Dr. David Taylor, adjunct faculty member in the College of Business and Global Affairs, and Dr. Sean Walker, professor of management, were featured recently with comments about separate topics in WalletHub.

Taylor was featured in WalletHub's piece about [Best Credit Cards for Bad Credit](#), while Walker was featured in WalletHub's article about [Best Cities for Hispanic Entrepreneurs](#).

WalletHub, based in Washington, D.C., is a financial website that offers practical information for consumers such as credit-improvement advice and personalized savings alerts.

The site's business-related features are supplemented with information from subject-matter experts.

## Wilson to speak about use of AI tools

Dr. Alisa Wilson, assistant professor in the Department of Educational Studies, will share research into the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools at a public event at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10, in the Paul Meek Library.

The event is the first in the Fall 2024 UT Martin Research Series monthly speakers' program.

Wilson's presentation will share survey data collected from UT Martin faculty and staff about their use of ChatGPT.

This AI tool allows users to enter prompts into an online interface to easily produce essays of any desired length, format, style and level of detail.

"There is a great deal of misinformation and speculation about the use of artificial intelligence (AI) software in educational settings," she said. "My hope is that educators and students in the K-12 and postsecondary settings, will consider ways to harness these new tools to improve both



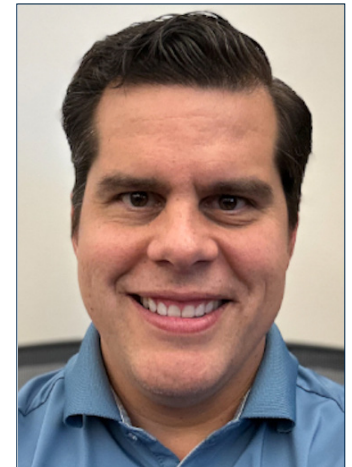
Wilson

teacher pedagogy and student learning."

Wilson spent 18 years as a secondary level special education, inclusion and intervention teacher before joining higher education as an assistant professor of education.

She holds a master's degree in instruction, curriculum and leadership; a graduate certificate in educational technology; additional graduate studies in special education; and a doctorate in educational leadership.

The UT Martin Research Series is co-sponsored by the Division of Academic Affairs and the Paul Meek Library. This free public event will be held in the north reading room of the Paul Meek Library with a livestream broadcast. For more information, contact Dr. Erik Nordberg, dean of the Paul Meek Library, at 731-881-7070.



Taylor



Walker

# Mantooth to lead Chancellor's Academy

Dr. Jamie Mantooth, executive director of the Office of Student Engagement, was named to lead the new Chancellor's Leadership Academy.



Mantooth

The Chancellor's

Leadership Academy is a groundbreaking program designed to foster leadership excellence among students, faculty and staff.

This comprehensive initiative promises to be a cornerstone of the University of Tennessee

at Martin's commitment to developing the next generation of leaders.

Mantooth will move into a new, pivotal role leading several high-impact initiatives that are vital to student success

and the growth of UTM.

He will lead the creation of the Chancellor's Leadership Academy and will continue to oversee the Title III grant project, ensuring its continued success and alignment with the university's strategic goals.

# Faculty Women's Club to host welcome reception Sept. 21

The Faculty Women's Club will host a welcome reception for all new women faculty and staff and the wives of faculty and staff.

This event offers an opportunity to meet new colleagues.

The reception will be held from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21, in the Dunagan Alumni Center. Suggested dress is spirit wear.

Those who are not new but have not attended previous

meetings are encouraged to participate in the reception.

Those who attend the reception will receive two complimentary tickets to the UT Martin-Missouri State football game following the reception at 6 p.m.

RSVP by Monday, Sept. 16, to:

- Amy Bates at 731-881-7507 or abates17@utm.edu.
- Annie Schommer at 731-514-6403 or aschommer216@gmail.com.

## Upcoming Campus Events

### Tuesday, Sept. 10

- UTM Research Series: Dr. Alisa Wilson on the use of AI tools, 4 p.m., Paul Meek Library.
- PML fall workshops, "How to Read an Academic Article," 4 p.m., 152 Paul Meek Library.

### Tuesday, Sept. 17

- Constitution Day Speaker Program, 4 p.m., 111 Boling University Center.
- Wednesday, Sept. 18**
- Open house, 2 p.m., Paul Meek Library.

*Events are subject to cancellation; dates and times are subject to change.*

# IRB, IACUC meetings scheduled for fall 2024

The UT Martin Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the Protection of Human Subjects in Research will hold its regularly scheduled meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m. in Room 124 of Gooch Hall.

Applications for full IRB review must be received by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs at least 10 full working days prior to the regularly scheduled meeting to be reviewed.

The IRB Committee will not meet if no applications are received to be reviewed.

Applications for IRB review and accompanying instructions are available on the [IRB SharePoint site](#).

IRB Committee meetings for the fall 2024 semester are scheduled for Sept. 11, Oct. 2,

Nov. 6 and Dec. 4.

The UT Martin Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) will hold its regularly scheduled meetings on the first Monday of each month at 4 p.m. in Room 124 of Gooch Hall.

Proposed protocols must be received by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs at least 10 full working days prior to the regularly scheduled meeting to be reviewed.

The IACUC will not meet if no applications are received to be reviewed.

Applications and instructions for IACUC review are available on the [IACUC SharePoint site](#).

IACUC Committee meetings for the fall 2024 semester are scheduled for Sept. 9, Oct. 7, Nov. 4 and Dec. 2.

# New Catholic student center opens



The Most Rev. David P. Talley, bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Memphis, blesses the main gathering room Sept. 7 in the Skyhawk Catholic Campus Ministry's newly opened Newman Center. The event welcomed community members, members of the St. Jude Apostle Catholic Church in Martin and UT Martin students, faculty and staff to celebrate the ministry's new home on Hannings Lane. Rodney and Stacey Freed, Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communication faculty members, serve as the center's campus ministers.

# Smiley named assistant director of WestStar

The WestStar Leadership Program at UT Martin announced Aug. 30 that

Jennifer Black Smiley is the program's new assistant director.

Chancellor Yancy Freeman Sr. was pleased to have Smiley as the WestStar assistant director.

"Jennifer Black Smiley's promotion to assistant director of WestStar Leadership is a testament to her unwavering dedication and exceptional leadership," he said.

"Her track record as program manager, overseeing conferences and special events, has laid a solid foundation for her new role. I am confident that Jennifer will continue to inspire and lead with the same commitment and vision she has always shown."

University Chief of Staff and WestStar Executive Director Jake Bynum was also glad to add Smiley's experience to WestStar administration.

"Jennifer Black Smiley's ascent to assistant director of WestStar Leadership marks a significant milestone in her impressive journey with WestStar," he said. "Her exceptional performance as program manager has been instrumental in the success of WestStar."

Smiley succeeds Virginia Grimes, who retired in July after 34 years of service to the

WestStar Leadership Program.

The Virginia Grimes WestStar Leadership Endowment to support the WestStar program was announced by Freeman at her July 27 retirement reception. Also at that reception, Bynum announced the Virginia Grimes WestTeach Leadership Award to recognize leadership and dedication among members of WestStar's WestTeach leadership-development program for K-12 teachers.

The WestStar Leadership Program was founded at UT Martin in 1989 and is the state's oldest and largest regional leadership program. Since the program began, it has had 974 people take part.

The program equips regional leaders with new skills and knowledge designed to impact the educational, economic and social development of West Tennessee. The program also provides members with a growing network of community-minded people committed to serving the area.

WestStar Leadership educates, engages and empowers a diverse group of community-minded individuals to collaborate, lead and serve to facilitate positive change in West Tennessee.



Smiley

Each year, a class of about 30 people from around West Tennessee take part in workshops, business tours and other programs to develop and broaden their leadership skills.

Participants also become part of a growing network of other leaders who, through mutual support and assistance, shape the future of West Tennessee. WestStar is committed to advancing the regional and global community through outreach and community service and public service.

Recruiting for the WestStar Class of 2025 has begun. Those interested in participating should email [weststar@utm.edu](mailto:weststar@utm.edu) or visit the WestStar Leadership Program page at [www.utm.edu](http://www.utm.edu).

## This Week's Skyhawk Home Events

Tuesday, Sept. 10

- Women's volleyball vs. Southern Illinois, 6 p.m., Skyhawk Fieldhouse

Saturday, Sept. 14

- Men's/women's cross country, 10 a.m., UT Martin XC OVC Preview, Graham Park, Union City
- Football vs. North Alabama (Hall of Fame Game), 6 p.m., Hardy M. Graham Stadium

• Full athletics schedules can be found at [utmsports.com](http://utmsports.com).

• Watch "Skyhawk Sports Talk" each week, archived at [utmsports.com](http://utmsports.com)! New episodes are posted each Monday.



## You Tell Me

• **Question** - Sunday Brunch sponsored by Sodexo in Skyhawk Dining Hall resumed Sept. 8 with the semester's first brunch. Are there any changes in the brunch, and what is the cost for a meal?

• **Answer** - Sunday Brunches will continue through November with different themes for each brunch. A special menu will be offered for Homecoming brunch Oct. 6 that includes an alumni promotion. The final brunch, Nov. 17, will feature soul food. Executive Chef Dashon Scott is planning a delicious menu for all Sunday Brunches. Adult meals are \$14.05 + tax and children's meals are \$6 + tax.

Submit your questions to Addenda at [addenda@utm.edu](mailto:addenda@utm.edu).

## addenda

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